

Minutes

Western Region Youth Council Meeting

April 24, 2003

Richfield, Utah

Attendance: Greg Muller Lynnette Robinson Wayne Shamo
 Rich VanAusdal Lis Barker Brand Neufeld

Guests: Darren Johnson Karen Alvey Richard Nelson

Staff: Ann Barnson Fran Cannard Jolene Bundy

Minutes: Jolene Bundy

Welcome: Greg Muller welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes: Wayne Shamo made a motion to approve the minutes. Brad Neufeld seconded the motion. There were no changes and the minutes were approved.

State Council:

Karen Alvey was there to report information that came out in the State Council Meeting last week. There was a big discussion on the reauthorization for WIA funding in congress.

Currently the funding for WIA mandates 30% of the funding go to out of school youth.

Congress is thinking of reversing the percentages and making it mandatory for 70% of the funding go to the out of school youth. The discussion in the State Council was that the Youth Council felt the State Council was not authorized to write a letter regarding this issue and that it should come from the State Youth Council. Karen would like our Youth Council to also write a letter stating our position on the issue.

We discussed how our council felt about the percentages. Ann said it is easy to serve the youth in school because we have counselors in the schools. It's up to the EC's to identify the out of school youth. We are currently at only 24% of our youth that are out of school. Winfield has been working with other agencies trying to identify more.

Wayne felt this is kind of unfair to the "Good Kids". In a way, we reward the troubled youth by giving them the priorities in jobs and training opportunities. That is one reason he doesn't think they should not get the majority of the funding at 70%. It is agreed that they do need extra help but it was felt that 30% funding is reasonable.

Wayne asked about meeting our obligations for the funds. If we don't spend it, do we loose it? Ann said yes. If we can't spend the 70% we will loose the funding. Right now we have not been able to find the 30% youth, let alone the 70%. We have a better opportunity through Winfield

Kids than the other offices in the rest of the state because they don't have the connections that Winfield Kids has been able to make.

Ann said she also heard they are thinking of change the ages from 14-21 to 16-21.

Winfield Kids said they just did a presentation in Cedar with 40 out of school youth. They feel they can easily fill the slots because of the relationships they are building with the schools and the Probation departments. They have started a campaign in the schools with the counselors. When the youth drop out, part of the commitment in working with them is to go back to school or at least get a GED. The schools traditionally hesitate giving out names of the youth dropping out but now they are working with Winfield Kids to get them back into school.

Washington County has Millcreek which is an alternative school. As soon as a youth drops out, their name is sent to Millcreek. This way Winfield Kids can get the names to work with.

Ann said youth have other barriers besides being out of school. We are having a hard time identifying them now and they need just as much help. No one is the State is at a 30% right now. Changing it to 70% would make it much more difficult to make our quota's.

The group felt it should say at 30%. We can always fund more than the 30% when the need is there. But to change it to the 70/30 would be unreasonable. We would risk losing the funding if we can't make the 70%. It was agreed to keep it at the 30/70 percentage.

There was another issue regarding Region Youth Councils. It is currently a requirement of WIA. They are considering taking the Region Youth Councils out of WIA and leaving only a State Youth Council or making it at the discretion of the Governor to have the local Regional Youth Councils. Wayne said if they take away the Region Councils, the local youth will not get any help. We got no help from the State until he started attending the State Youth Council meetings. It is important we keep the council going for the youth in our area. We are making progress but it takes time and we need to keep working at it.

Lynnette made a motion to draft a letter to keep the funding percentage at 30/70 as it is now and to keep the Region Youth Councils as part of WIA. Wayne seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Other Business:

Lis Barker requested to be released from the Youth Council. She represents Child Care and feels that she really doesn't have anything to contribute to the council. She deals with Child Care and not Youth. She feels she should be more a part of the Marketing Committee because she represents the providers of Child Care and not the Youth.

They ask her about the number of teenage parents. She doesn't have a figure on that number. We need referrals to know who those youth are. Lis said she doesn't do that. What they have is a pull-off-pad with the name and number of places where they can get help. The youth just take off the information and it's up to them to call for help. She will be on call if we need her but she

feels like it is a waste of her time. She talked to Jan about it and they agreed she could change to the Marketing Committee.

Action Items from last meeting:

Richard Nelson met with Linda Sappington regarding putting our information on the 211 Resource Phone number in Washington County. She will pass the word out about our programs. She talked about a program for Adults to be foster Parents and monitors for the youth.

Richard passed out a report for the Youth. They have no problems with the youth at this point.

Fran said the contacts for the eREP computer program are Kathleen Nelson for 5 County and Margaret Pruitt for 6 County. One portion of eREP will allow a person to go in, put in basic information and match up the resources they need. Organizations will provide their own data base and keep it updated.

Jolene made copies of the Mission Statement but Greg requested it be put on the Agenda each time.

Greg and Brian were working on some Grant Writing. However, Brian is in Iraq with the Armed Services. Greg has done some grant writing though. He hopes to be able to find ways to help others write grants, create an awareness of grants and who can do grant writing. Greg will send an internet link to the Youth Council members, and anyone wanting it, for a web page as to where to go to find out about available grants and who can write them.

Membership:

We have a lot of positions we need to fill on our Youth Council. They ask Winfield Kids to see if they could come up with some names of former Participants to be a member. Rich suggested we invite someone else to come with us each time to get the feel of it and see if we can get someone that would be willing to help that way. They ask Richard and Brad to come up with a name for a permanent member as well as someone else each time. Greg asked Jolene to send out a list of the positions of the council to all members so they can see what vacancies there are. Ann said they need to keep in mind that they need to be approved by the Youth Council and then the Region Council to be able to be a member.

Resources:

They ask Jolene to email out a list of the resources we put together. Sue Kimball was going to ask Becky Cox about being a member of the council and Carl Holmes was going to ask Brent Judd. Neither one are here today so Greg will follow up with Sue and Carl.

Action Items:

Greg asked Jolene to email the Action Items out ASAP so he can be working on them.

Orientation Manual:

Greg passed out a copy of an orientation manual the State Youth Council put together for orienting new members. It was recommended the Region Youth Council use this manual or come up with one that is similar. Greg said he likes something visual and would like to see a

presentation done on a DC or something like that. He would like this as an action item for next time – to be working on something like that.

E-Choices:

There is a program called e-Choices that is on the internet. There is a link from the DWS web page. It is a career choices program for the youth which is based in interests, education, financial needs, it lists colleges or institutions that teach the programs they are looking for and what the financial needs would be, etc. It is a very helpful program for youth trying to decide what career to go into. If they call the DWS counselor at the schools, or call the local EC, the counselor there can set them up with a password. Then they can go into it anytime they want.

The State is trying to decide if it is worth it to have it on the web page, if it is being used, and if the youth like the program. If it isn't being used, they will take it off. Ann said she has been collecting responses from the schools. Richard said the kids they work with like the e-Choices program. They say it's fun and informative. Ann said there is an e-choices magazine for careers and one for parents. She encouraged the members to go into the web-site, call the EC or her and she will get them a password. Then they can go into the program and see what is there. Let Ann know what you think about the program.

Committee's:

Greg is recommending two committee's to be working on:

- 1) Resource mapping. Greg has been working with Richard and would like someone else to join them.
- 2) Grant Writing.

Greg made a motion to set up the 2 committee's. Wayne seconded the motion. The motion passed. Greg also recommended setting up a Child Care Committee and asked for volunteers to the committee's.

Youth Leadership/Citizenship Project:

The State has money they have provided to each region for a leadership/citizenship project. The money is only \$2000 for the whole region which doesn't go very far. It needs to be spent by the end of June. Winfield Kids already has youth to work with and projects they can do so we have asked them to do this project. They are asking the counties to join them in ideas for some fun activities in the counties. For example, in Millard County they will fix up the fair grounds. They have talked with others about cleaning up yards, etc. which will provide a service. The Youth will do the planning and volunteer their time. The Money will pay for the supplies needed to do the project.

Because of such a small amount of money, the Administrative part will all have to be volunteers so the money can be spent on the projects. They asked for ideas if any of the council members know of some service projects they could do in their area. They are also seeking donations to cover the costs of the projects if it goes beyond the \$2000 from the State.

Youth Services/Programs/Winfield Kids:

There are 2 categories of youth – Those referred and those at Risk. Winfield Kids reported they have 1300 kids enrolled, 23 have exited the program, and the Summer Youth program expects to

grow by 30. They have 100 new youth enrolled. They are developing pathways with other agencies and the schools to get youth for the programs. They are creating a team effort where both agencies work together. They don't have the staffing or the funds for all the youth that want to participate in the program but are trying to get funding and serve as many as they can.

They are working with the counselors and the case workers on access to case notes so it can be more productive. Working with failing kids requires some intensive time and effort with each of the youth.

Other:

Greg asked everyone to invite others to come to our meeting next time to try to get more members. He asked Wayne to be on the Committee for Resource Mapping with Him and Richard. Wayne said he would.

Greg moved to adjourn the meeting. Brad seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

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